

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending July 29, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Spring Grain Harvest Underway
Stone Fruit and Berry Harvest Continued**

FIELD CROPS

Spring wheat and barley harvest progressed slowly, with lower than average yields reported on spring and re-crop grains. Winter wheat and potato harvest continued. Potato blight was found in Skagit County. Top work continued on Grand, Noble, and Shasta fir trees.

LIVESTOCK

Hay and silage harvest continued across the state. Second cutting was tapering off at 90% completed, with third cutting gearing up at 12% completed. Good yields continued to be reported. There were several reports of pasture and range conditions declining due to warm, dry weather. Grasshoppers infested range and pastures in Garfield County. Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 50% poor, 32% fair, and 14% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Cherry, peach, apricot, nectarine, early apple variety, and general berry harvest continued. Apples and pears were showing color and sizing up well. Organic vegetable and hothouse tomato growers reported excellent sales.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.9	6.7

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	11	55	34	-
Subsoil	19	55	26	-
Irrigation Water	-	15	85	-
Hay and Roughage	-	10	90	-

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	6	3	7	4
Winter Wheat Harvested	19	6	26	19
Barley Harvested	8	4	9	8
Potatoes Harvested	10	9	14	10
Dry Peas Harvested	15	9	8	12
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	90	85	94	92
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	12	10	11	10

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	14	45	39	-
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	5	31	45	19	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	5	95	-
Barley Dryland	4	29	43	24	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Dry Beans	-	-	5	95	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	5	95	-

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallum/Jefferson: Both counties have been cool, dry, and windy. Corn was growing slow due to the cool weather. Hay harvest continued, with good yields and quality being reported.

Grays Harbor: Warm temperatures resulted in rapid sweet corn growth. Livestock producers continued harvesting silage. Hothouse tomato growers reported excellent sales. Pastures were turning brown on lighter soils, due to the lack of moisture. Blueberry harvest on U-Pick farms was in full swing. Christmas tree growers continued with topwork on Noble fir trees. Vegetable growers were irrigating fields wherever possible.

Skagit: Farmers who had irrigation capabilities were using it. With the exception of a small amount of rain late in the week, conditions continued to be very dry. It's obvious that some corn fields are not going to make it to maturity. Harvesting operations continued on peas, with the fields looking good in general. Downy mildew incidence was reported earlier and was lessening. The first report of potato late blight came in.

Snohomish/Clallum: Temperatures have been well below normal. Rainfall Friday and Saturday, in several areas, was up to half an inch. Corn was

showing good growth, but needs more sunny days. Raspberries continued to be harvested. Blueberries and other berry harvesting began.

Snohomish (2nd Report): A good rain, of nearly an inch in some areas, fell near the end of the week. Local hay and grass silage harvest continued. Blueberry harvest was underway and raspberry harvest was nearly complete. Apples were sizing up and showing some color.

Thurston/Pierce: Crop conditions remained favorable for the area. No unusual situations occurred during the week to affect crop production.

Thurston (2nd Report): Pastures began to show symptoms of drought damage due to the lack of rain. Strawberry harvest was complete, and raspberry harvest was in full swing. Organic vegetable growers continued to report excellent demand for their produce, at Farmer's Markets. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Grand fir and top working Noble and Shasta fir. Livestock owners were busy pulling tansy ragwort from pastures. After about three weeks with no rain, the rural landscape was beginning to turn brown where irrigation was not available.

CENTRAL

Benton: The weather continued to be hot and dry. Stone fruit harvest continued. Wheat harvest was in progress, with mixed reports on yields. Growers were busy stretching the diminished water supply. The grape crop looked very good.

Chelan/Douglas: The temperatures were cooler, with high winds. There was no precipitation during the week. The cherry harvest was complete. Soft fruit continued to be harvested. Winter wheat harvest began. Dry conditions continued in the rangeland and pastures.

Franklin: Winter wheat, potatoes, and carrots were being harvested. Yields and quality were generally good. The third cutting of alfalfa continued.

Grant: Dryland wheat harvest was active in all parts of the county. Soft fruit harvest was in

progress. The weather was generally favorable for most crops.

Grant (2nd Report): Sweetheart cherries, peaches, apricots, and nectarine harvest continued. Some apple hand thinning continued. Grass seed harvest was 75 percent complete. Radish seed, onion seed, and sweet corn harvest progressed.

Kittitas: Most of the first cutting of timothy hay was completed. The second cutting of alfalfa was in full swing, with yields expected to be normal. Water supplies were tightening, with the Kittitas Reclamation District planning to shut off water August 1. Irrigated pastures were starting to look stressed.

Okanogan/Ferry: Some areas of the county received rainfall early Saturday morning. Some winter wheat harvest started, but the majority of the harvest will start in a couple of weeks. Cherry harvest was complete in the Okanogan area.

Livestock water supplies continued to be depleted. Dry conditions continued in the ranges and pastures.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 8 degrees above normal to 4 degrees below normal, with a trace of precipitation on July 28. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): The weather cooperated with the harvest of late apricot varieties, early peach and nectarine varieties, and Gingergold and other early apple varieties. Red Delicious apples and Bartlett pears were sizing up well. Bartlett pear growers should start their harvest within a couple of weeks. This year's harvest will be about one week later than normal.

EASTERN

Adams: Growers in the southern end of the county were finishing winter wheat harvest and will begin harvesting spring wheat this week. Winter wheat yields were mostly reported as average or between 30-40 bushels per acres.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest progressed well in the lower parts of both counties. Producers in the mid-elevation areas began cutting. Yields for winter wheat were reported as good for some and below average for others. Spring crop yields were below normal, with some cases very poor. Grasshoppers moved into the western part of Garfield County, causing damage to pastures and rangeland. Several producers sprayed new CRP seedlings to aid in survival of the new grass plants.

Garfield (2nd Report): Wheat and grain harvest was slowly underway without much change from the previous week. Yields were lighter than expected, especially on re-crop ground.

Lincoln: Temperatures were warm, followed by a cooling trend with some rain showers. Hay and pasture conditions continued to be very poor. Winter wheat harvest was beginning in the southern part of the county.

Walla Walla: Daytime temperatures were on the cooler side during the week. Recent rains hampered wheat harvest.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

July 30, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	48	73	61	-3	78	-13	11	-11	0.95	0.67	1	26.47	-8.32	76	141
Everett	51	74	60	-4	73	-22	12	-16	0.14	-0.09	2	24.43	-10.66	70	140
Hoquiam	50	66	58	-4	55	-22	1	-13	0.68	0.42	2	43.05	-23.55	65	161
Kelso	50	79	64	-2	97	-5	27	-8	0.34	0.13	2	19.93	-25.24	44	124
Olympia	46	80	62	-3	84	-14	16	-12	0.16	0.00	2	30.19	-19.25	61	137
Seattle-Tacoma	51	77	63	-4	92	-20	22	-20	0.26	0.12	2	24.89	-11.24	69	127
Shelton	50	77	62	-4	87	-25	19	-23	0.09	-0.07	2	40.77	-23.09	64	142
Tacoma	52	79	64	-2	101	-4	32	-3	0.41	0.24	2	26.53	-12.51	68	134
Vancouver	52	83	67	2	117	12	47	10	0.32	0.16	2	23.00	-17.17	57	140
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	52	88	69	0	134	1	64	1	0.00	-0.06	0	6.98	-1.57	82	72
Omak	45	92	72	5	157	29	87	28	0.09	-0.05	1	6.08	-7.87	44	66
Stampede Pass	40	68	54	-4	34	-14	0	-7	0.64	0.36	2	54.19	-25.12	68	169
Wenatchee	55	90	73	-3	160	-9	90	-8	0.00	-0.07	0	5.53	-2.35	70	67
Yakima AP	57	91	73	3	161	14	91	14	0.00	-0.03	0	4.75	-2.82	63	63
NORTHEAST															
Colville	47	91	68	2	131	12	61	10	0.34	0.14	2	12.80	-7.31	64	78
Deer Park	41	87	65	-6	105	-35	39	-31	0.13	-0.01	3	13.09	-4.65	74	114
Spokane AP	50	88	69	-2	133	-7	63	-7	0.03	-0.11	2	10.20	-5.57	65	98
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	53	91	75	-2	178	-4	108	-4	0.00	-0.07	0	5.24	-1.72	75	67
Moses Lake	53	92	72	-4	158	-24	88	-24	0.00	-0.07	0	6.51	-0.45	94	65
Quincy	53	90	75	3	174	20	104	20	0.00	-0.07	0	5.15	-2.31	69	57
Ritzville	47	89	70	0	140	0	70	0	0.00	-0.07	0	9.19	-1.71	84	75
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	54	94	77	-3	188	-15	118	-15	0.02	-0.04	1	6.17	0.02	100	64
Pasco	51	93	72	-4	154	-27	84	-26	0.01	-0.06	1	7.55	0.45	106	72
Pullman	45	84	64	-3	101	-14	31	-17	0.01	-0.13	1	13.10	-7.10	65	105
Walla Walla AP	55	90	73	-4	166	-16	96	-16	0.00	-0.14	0	15.43	-3.25	83	94
Whitman Mission	50	91	71	-2	147	-7	77	-7	0.00	-0.10	0	14.03	0.93	107	99
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	45	86	66	-5	115	-30	47	-27	0.11	-0.09	2	16.33	-8.33	66	101
Lewiston ID	59	93	74	-2	173	-3	103	-2	0.00	-0.14	0	11.71	0.09	101	103

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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